

# 6B | Perfect day

## SPEAKING

1 Work in pairs. Discuss these questions.

- Do you often go out for the day? Where do you usually go?
- Where's the best place to go for a day out in your area?

2 With your partner make a list of the five most important things for a good day out.

*good weather, a nice restaurant ...*

## READING

1 Read the article and match the headings to the excursions A–D.

- |               |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 1 Time travel | 3 Bird's-eye view |
| 2 Sports day  | 4 Song and dance  |

2 Read the article again and match the comments 1–8 to the excursions A–D.

- 1 Great fun, but I fell in twice and the sea was freezing!
- 2 I was very nervous at first, but the pilot was very kind and he took us to some amazing places.
- 3 In one place, there was a brilliant harp player. I bought the CD.
- 4 Ireland's history is so fascinating. We learnt so much.
- 5 It was my first time on a horse, but it certainly won't be my last!
- 6 The guide made it really interesting with his funny stories about Irish heroes.
- 7 The scenery was absolutely fantastic and we'll never forget the sight of the seal cubs.
- 8 We loved it so much that we decided to stay until the very end. We had to get a taxi back to our hotel.

3 Which excursion A–D should these people choose to go on? Explain your reasons.

- 1 a young couple on their honeymoon
- 2 a businessman who wants to impress a customer
- 3 a group of four retired holidaymakers from Florida
- 4 two students from a Dublin language school who want to celebrate their last weekend in Ireland
- 5 a family with two teenage children
- 6 a delegation of European politicians on a cultural visit

4 Work in pairs. Discuss these questions.

- Which day trip would you choose to go on?
- What do you think the people in exercise 3 would like to see and do in your area?

## EMERALD TOUR

Discover the best of Ireland in a day.  
We've put together an unbeatable selection of one-day excursions from Dublin.

CALL NOW TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION

A

Those of you who've had enough of sightseeing will love this action-packed day. In the morning, you can experience the thrills of rock climbing under the guidance of an experienced instructor. After lunch, there's sea-kayaking in Dublin Bay. Throughout the day off, there's a visit to the National Aquatic Centre, Europe's largest indoor waterworld. Or if you've had enough of water sports, our guide will take you for a pony ride along the sandy beaches of the Bay.

B

For a taste of Ireland's ancient past, this excursion takes you to the magical area north of Dublin. As the sun sets, the highlight of the day will be a guided tour of the World Heritage Site of Newgrange, surrounded by its giant standing stones that are nearly 5,000 years old. Before we take you back into the depths of time, we will see the Hill of Tara, home of the ancient kings of Ireland, before the arrival of Christianity. This memorable day will begin with a visit to Slane Abbey where Saint Patrick brought the message of the Bible in the early 5<sup>th</sup> century.

C

Ireland's west coast is one of the most beautiful and dramatic places on earth, and the ideal way to see it is from the air. In our brand new six-seater helicopter, you will first see the incredible lakes, mountains and rivers of Connemara. After you've had lunch in the pretty fishing village of Clifden, you'll be back in the air for breathtaking views of the wild Aran Islands. Don't forget to bring a camera with a zoom lens for once-in-a-lifetime shots of the seal colony.



For those of you who like to lie in in the morning, the excursion to Dalkey leaves at the very respectable time of 11.30. Only a short drive from Dublin, the historic town of Dalkey has two castles and a little harbour, but it is also home to some of Ireland's best musicians (Bono, Van Morrison, Enya). Your day begins with a tour of three of the town's finest pubs, all with live music. **Once you feel in the mood, our next stop will be a traditional Irish dancing club.** Here you will learn the basic steps, in time for an evening of music and dance. The bus returns to Dublin at midnight, but you'll probably want to stay!

## GRAMMAR: present tenses in future time clauses

- Look at the highlighted sentences in the text and answer the questions below.
  - Do the sentences refer to the present or the future?
  - Which two verb forms are used after the expressions *if*, *after*, *before* and *once*?
  - Which verb form is used in the other part of the sentence?
- Complete the text. Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense.

### KING'S PARK HOLIDAY VILLAGE

Thank you for booking your weekend away at King's Park. When we (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (*receive*) your payment, we (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (*send*) you a brochure with details of all our fantastic offers. If you (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (*want*) to hire a bicycle during your stay, please let us know and we (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (*make*) sure it's waiting for you on your arrival. Once you (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (*settle*) into your cabin, one of our guides (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (*come*) over to see that everything is to your liking. And as soon as you (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (*have*) a chance to have a look around, our reception staff (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (*be*) more than happy to take your bookings for dinner and your choice of evening entertainment. If there (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (*be*) anything else you need during your stay (morning newspapers, extra bedding, food or drink in your cabin), just let the staff know and they (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (*help*) you out as soon as they can.

## 3 Complete the sentences so that they are true for you.

- I \_\_\_\_\_ as soon as I get some free time.
- When I've done this exercise, I \_\_\_\_\_.
- I \_\_\_\_\_ before I go to bed tonight.
- Once I've \_\_\_\_\_, I \_\_\_\_\_.
- I \_\_\_\_\_ as soon as I \_\_\_\_\_.

## 4 Compare your sentences with a partner.

Use a present tense to talk about future time after conjunctions like *if*, *when*, *after*, *before*, *as soon as* and *once*. You often use *will* in the main clause of the sentence.

*He'll get in touch with you as soon as he arrives.*

Use the present perfect if you want to emphasize that the future action will have finished.

*Once I've finished this, I'll give you a call.*

SEE LANGUAGE REFERENCE PAGE 64

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Work in pairs. Read the information and discuss these questions.



In 2005, the city of Cork became the second Irish town (after Dublin) to become a European Capital of Culture. Visitors in search of culture can see the sculptures in the Crawford Gallery, go to a concert at the Opera House, take part in the Jazz and Blues festival, or simply find a bar in one of the historic streets and listen to some traditional Irish music. The most famous tourist attraction, however, is the Blarney Stone (just outside Cork). According to tradition, people who kiss the stone will become talkative and eloquent.

- What are the 'cultural capitals' of your country?
- What can you do in these cities?
- Which of these cities have you visited and what did you do there?